GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2624
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008
OPPRESSION OF PRISONERS
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Khan Shri Mohammad Tahir;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu;Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao;Yadav Shri Kailash Nath Singh

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has taken a serious view of the increase in the incidence of oppression of prisoners in various jails in the country;

(b) if so,the details alongwith the total number of such incidence reported during each of the last three years and the current year,gender-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any special guidelines to check this trend including oppression of women in jails;and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a): The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) considers complaints received from prisoners or their relatives alleging atrocities including custodial deaths, custodial rape,exploitation of child prisoners,harassment of prisoners,sexual harassment and denial of medial facilities/proper food and make appropriate recommendations on the merits of the each case.

(b): A statement indicating State-wise and gender wise break up of complaints or information received in the NHRC during the period 2006-07 to 2008-09 is at annexure.

(c) & (d): 'Police' and 'Prison' are State subjects under the Seventh schedule of the Constitution and the responsibility lies primarily with the respective State Governments.However,advisories are being issued time to time by the Government of India in this regard to take stern action against the guilty officials.However,the Government of India has circulated a Model Prison Manual to all the States/Union Territories in 2003 for their guidance and adoption which has specific provision for providing various facilities to the women prisoner such as separate prison/barracks for women prisoners,deployment of women staff,suitable medical care to women prisoners and their children in jail,educational facilities to the children of women prisoner,providing other basic amenities such as sanitary napkins etc,various recreation and correctional programme etc.